

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-05
OES-07 PA-01 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:PKBULLEN:MEM
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ARA - S. SHELTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MX, ENRG, US

SUBJECT: MEXICAN NATURAL GAS

REF: SIMCOX-DUNN TELECON OF 6/27

1) DURING FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S VISIT HERE, WE INFORMED HIM THAT WE PROPOSED TO USE FOLLOWING BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT PROPOSED MEXICAN GAS DEAL IN OUR CONTACTS WITH INTERESTED U.S. COMPANIES AND IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES: QUOTE WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE EXPORT OF MEXICAN NATURAL GAS TO THE U.S. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT THIS TIME. WE REMAIN READY TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WHENEVER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FINDS IT CONVENIENT. UNQUOTE

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2) AFTER CHECKING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO, ROEL INFORMED US THAT MEXICANS WERE ADAMANT AGAINST ISSUANCE OF ANY SUCH STATEMENT. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE DAILY INQUIRIES FROM GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANIES, WHO HAVE BEEN STOPPED FROM NEGOTIATING WITH PEMEX PENDING PROGRESS AT USG-GOM LEVEL. WE MUST GIVE COMPANIES A FAIR VIEW OF

SITUATION IN VERY NEAR FUTURE SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. SIMILARLY, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ANSWER CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESS INQUIRIES AS THEY ARISE.

3) WHILE WE ENVISAGE THAT ANYTHING WE SAY WOULD BE A PURELY USG STATEMENT, AND NOT A JOINT STATEMENT WITH GOM, WE WOULD PREFER TO TAKE GOM VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT IMPLYING THAT THE USG IS THE CAUSE OF ANY FURTHER DELAY IN RELAUNCHING DISCUSSIONS ON THE POSSIBLE IMPORT OF MEXICAN GAS INTO THE U.S., SINCE IN OUR VIEW THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

4) COULD YOU PLEASE INFORM GOM, PRESUMABLY THROUGH ROEL, THAT SINCE HE HAS INDICATED OPPOSITION TO STATEMENT IN PARA 1, WE PLAN TO USE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES: QUOTE THE USG CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN THE PROSPECTIVE IMPORT OF MEXICAN NATURAL GAS. WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOM THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WHENEVER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FINDS IT CONVENIENT. UNQUOTE

5) WE ASSUME GOM WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH A STATEMENT. IF THERE IS ANY UNFORESEEN REACTION, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: ENRG, MX, US
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